

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
September 8, 2014

MINUTES

St. John's Properties
1800 N. Prospect Ave
1:00 PM

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the September meeting of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to order at 1:01pm.

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chair Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of those present. Commissioners present for the meeting of the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities were:

Deb Falk-Palec
John Haupt
Tom Jacobs
Denise Koss
Barbara Leigh
Cheri Mc Grath
Susan Pickering
Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki

Absent or Excused:

Luis Arroyo
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.
Don Richards
Meg Steimle
Kathryn Zalewski

Staff:

Mike Bonk
Tim Ochnikowski

Guests:

Tracy Harrington, MTS
Dale Noll, MTS

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (July)

Commissioner Pickering moved to accept the minutes, Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

Chair Falk-Palec introduced Mr. Dale Noll, Manager of Voice / Data Systems at MTS. Mr. Noll gave an overview and demonstration of Real-Time Display Boards for MCTS buses. The system is nearly done and for the most part, it's working well. The display board works on a WiFi system as well as hard wired. Discussion took place regarding how to get the system in a building (contact Mr. Noll, 937-3279), what's needed for the system (screen, laptop), and if the system is available as a mobile app.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Ms. Harrington indicated that Transit Plus (TP) is partnering with UWM School of Physical Therapy for doing some assessments (Commissioner Zalewski currently sits on the TP Appeals Board and this will be a conflict of interest). MTS is seeking information for taxi-like services for Milwaukee County. The issue of snow removal at curb cuts and shelters was mentioned. A PR campaign (Handy-NEWS & NOTES, Facebook & Twitter) regarding keeping the curb cuts and shelters clear of snow might be worth considering. Discussion took place regarding snow removal recognition for good jobs, expanded routes to New Berlin, Menomonee Falls and Germantown for employment purposes as part of the freeway expansion project agreement.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES



Commissioner Pickering reported that the committee met to discuss the \$500 award that the winner of the Eric Hobbs Award (Mitchell Airport Art Show) receives, in exchange for the winning piece of art. The money comes from the Trust Fund and will be paid to Milwaukee Public Theater for them to issue the check. Commissioner Pickering moved to approve the expenditure of \$500 from the Commission's Trust Fund to be sent to the Milwaukee Public Theater for the purpose of awarding the winner of the Eric Hobbs Award. Seconded by Commissioner Walz-Chojnacki. Following no discussion, the vote passed unanimously.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (July / August)

Mr. Ochnikowski indicated that the 2015 budget request has been submitted and that the Assistant Director position remains on the books but will be unfunded. Mr. Bonk has enhanced the mobile website with an advertising-like "sticky note" at the bottom of all pages. This new feature allows the mobile site to highlight whatever we want as well be used in other ways, which the office is exploring.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Bonk gave an overview of the mobile website and the new feature added - a sticky note. Summer camp was reviewed and indications were that it was the best yet. The Adaptive Sports Expo was reviewed. The expo was well attended and a great event. The first annual Fishing Has No Boundaries event in Milwaukee was reviewed. The fall programming with Easter Seals starts today. The Tap the Potential 2014 activities and events were highlighted. The flash mob of singers and dancers with disabilities (October 15 at the Courthouse) was mentioned.

Chair Falk-Palec indicated that Commissioner Zalewski needs to resign from representing the commission on the Transit Plus Appeals Board, due to her connection in the UWM Physical Therapy department that has recently partnered with Transit Plus for assessments. Commissioner McGrath agreed to take the position on the appeals board.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:06pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, October 13, 2014 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Tim Ochnikowski, Staff to the Commission